

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME 1.

FORT WAYNE, IND., DECEMBER, 1889.

NUMBER 12.

CHRIST'S NATIVITY.

See, how from far, upon the eastern road,
The star-led wizards haste with odours sweet.
*
But peaceful was the night,
Wherein the Prince of light
His reign of peace upon the earth began;
The winds, with wonders whist,
Smoothly the waters kissed,
Whispering new joys to the mild ocean,
Who now hath quite forgot to rave,
While birds of calm sit brooding on the charmed
wave.

The stars with deep amaze,
Stand fixed in steadfast gaze,
Bending one way their precious influence;
And will not take their flight,
For all the morning light,
Or Lucifer, that often warn'd them thence;
But in their glimmering orbs did glow,
Until their Lord Himself bespake, and bid them
go.

—John Milton.

CHRISTMAS TIDE.

ND there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is borne this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ, the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke.

The story of the babe born at Bethlehem never grows old. It has been rehearsed for nearly nineteen centuries, and yet it has lost none of its charms. Year by year that birth is commemorated with added interest. On the first Christmas morn the shepherds and wise men came and worshipped the new born babe, but on Christmas day of this year there will be more worshippers at the

manger than ever before. The story has been repeated in the hearing of others, and each year the realm of the new born King has been enlarging, and the child has been growing in favor with all men. Since that glorious morn of the nativity, the melody of the angel chorus has been coming down through the ages, and it will roll on, and on until the remotest nations of the earth shall hear the "good tidings of great joy." Each year the story of the child grows in interest, and the name of Jesus becomes sweeter and dearer to His people. The Christmas story never can grow old and want for interest. The birth at Bethlehem is the advent of the holy child in whom all the nations of the earth should be blessed, "the salvation of God, prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." The benefits accruing to mankind out of this birth are such that the new born King shall never want for worshippers on Christmas day. The birth will be commemorated and the simple Bible story rehearsed with ever increasing interest. What a revolution the child in the manger has wrought in the history of the world! How the kingdoms of the world have been subdued and the nations of the earth made subject to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, only wise. His reign of peace and good will, and truth, has fallen upon the hearts of the people like a broad shaft of sunlight resting upon hill and dale. The wilderness and the solitary place has been made glad; the desert rejoices and blossoms as the rose. "The freshness and interest of the name of Jesus, and its power as a great factor in the spiritual history of the world, increase with each generation. The influence of his life, his words and his death, have, from the first, been like a Heaven cast into a mass of humanity."

To the individual Christian that Jesus born at Bethlehem, completing his mission upon Calvary, is the Divine Saviour, to believe in whom is life everlasting; to know whom is to have peace with God.

Amid the chimes of Christmas bells may our hearts once more with others respond in cheerful praise and loud

thanksgiving unto our God for the gift of his son.

Every year, Thy cradle, Lord, surrounding,
We question not how can such marvels be;
Rejoiced to hear Thine angels' message sounding,

Bejoiced to send it forth o'er land and sea;
Through all earth's discords we can hear it ringing,
"Glory to God on high! Good will to men!"
Ah, tune each heart to this celestial singing,
Ere with Thine angels Thou dost come again.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.

On New Years' Day Grace Church will hold its annual meeting for the transaction of business, and election of officers. The meeting will be held in the morning at 10 o'clock, and it is hoped that there will be a full attendance of the membership at this meeting. The church treasurer, the treasurer of the Ladies Society, the treasurer of the Sabbath-school, and the treasurer of the Mission Band, will make their annual reports to the congregation at this time. At this meeting there is to be elected one Elder, one Deacon, one Trustee, Church Treasurer and Sunday-school officers, and other matter of business will come before the church. Let every member of the congregation be at this meeting.

On New Year's Day at the annual church meeting the deacons will make their report of the amounts subscribed and paid by the members of the congregation to meet the current expenses of the church. They want to report every member paid up in full. All subscriptions will be due in full by the 1st of January. The church treasurer must have funds at once to meet the expenses of the church. By order of the consistory the deacons are to furnish at once, statements to all the members of their accounts with the church, the amounts subscribed, the amounts paid, and amounts unpaid. Every member of the church will see the necessity of being prompt in making his payments. Every church has its current expenses, and these must be met by the church.

The Salem Reformed Church at Dutch Ridge is now equipped with a splendid bell. The sound is sweet and melodious, and can be heard for five or six miles through the country.

The ladies' Thanksgiving dinner was a success. Net receipts, \$64.52.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - EDITOR.
 Board of Managers: REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, ELDER F. D. PAULUS, DEACON H. P. VODERMARK.
 Entered at the postoffice at Fort Wayne, Indiana, as second-class matter. Feb. 7, 1890.

WITH this issue we close the first volume of the VISITOR. Our experience in the editorial work has at times been somewhat laborious, but withal very pleasant, and profitable. The VISITOR has been kindly received, and has found its way into many more homes than we could possibly have anticipated. The manner in which it has been received, and the many kind words which have been spoken for it, has given us the assurance that its visits have not been in vain. Many anxious inquiries have already come to us, indicating that our friends are solicitous about its future. The success of any publication depends largely upon the financial support which it may receive. So far the VISITOR has been a success financially. And we see no reason why it should not meet with like and even greater success in the future.

While we are indebted to our readers for their co-operation with us, and their financial help, we are not unmindful of the fact that we owe a debt of gratitude to our advertisers, for the support which they have given us. While they have been helpful to us, we trust the VISITOR has been helpful to them. Those who are interested in the financial success of the paper should remember the business firms whose advertisements appear in our columns. One good turn is always worth another in return. The GRACE CHURCH VISITOR hopes to continue with its friends throughout the year of 1890, and will aim with heart, and with a good will, to make its visits pleasant and profitable to all.

GRACE CHURCH IN MOURNING.

A mother in Israel has fallen. After a severe illness of more than two months, our beloved and esteemed mother, Mrs. Levi Bolender, departed this life. On Saturday evening, Nov. 30th, at a few moments after 10 o'clock, she breathed her last, and her spirit took its flight to the home beyond. At last, the Master said, "Tis enough; the cup of suffering is full. I will stay the hand, and let the spirit pass hence." The sufferings and afflictions of this mother for some six years passed, has been intense, and beyond all expression, but she was resigned and patient in all her illness, ever evincing a child-like trust and confidence in her Lord.

The pastor was often with her in

her last afflictions, and though her sufferings were great, he never heard a word of complaint. On the contrary, she was ever wont to kiss the hand that touched her body and wrought in it such extreme suffering. We are glad to testify to the patience and resignation of this mother in all her sickness. In her last fully conscious words to the pastor, she gave him the assurance that she was ready. With an expression upon her face of a grand triumph, she said, "I am ready," "I am ready," "It will not be long."

For nearly fifty years this mother was in the service of the Lord. She had been faithful and devoted to her master. She had rendered cheerful and earnest service in the work which he had committed into her hands, and thus was made ready for the final end, through obedience to the Lord's will and purpose with her in his service. But she was also made ready through the ministry of great afflictions. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth."

Mother Bolender was an earnest and faithful servant of the Lord. A pious and affectionate wife and mother. She was very warmly attached to her own family. Her great delight was to be in the circle of her own dear ones and of her friends. While the church shall lament the loss of a devoted member, the members of her own family suffer the severest loss. In this their great sorrow and bereavement of heart, they have the sympathy and prayer of the church and a great multitude of friends. But the source of their chiefest comfort is found in trusting in the Lord, and in the assurance that what is their loss, is the gain of their departed loved one. The spirit has taken its departure to the home-land of rest, and peace, and to be reunited with the loved who have gone before.

This mother was aged 62 years, 3 months, and 16 days. Was united in holy marriage to Levi Bolender Oct. 14th, 1845. This union was blessed with two daughters and two sons. One daughter and one son preceded the mother to the "Heavenly Home." Loved ones over yonder and loved ones here. "In some sweet day, by and by" the home circle will again be completed on the other side. Angelic forms are bending over the baleanies of heaven; white hands are beckoning to loved ones here, "come up higher and join the company over here." On Wednesday morning, December 4th, the remains of this sainted mother were laid away in their last resting place, in the beautiful cemetery of Akron, Ohio. There the body

shall repose in quiet and peaceful slumbers until the resurrection morn.

CHRISTMAS AT GRACE CHURCH.

The "little folks" and the "old folks" are always looking forward to a happy time when Christmas comes. It is the season of gift-giving and gift-receiving. The children will be on the look out for "Dear Old Santa Claus," while the older people will be busying their minds and hearts about something else. The home is a scene of continual delight and rejoicing during this season. But the children and old folks expect also some kind of a festive occasion at their church home at Christmas time, some social gathering and some appropriate services. Grace Church will try and not disappoint its children and older people in their wishes. Already the children and young people are busy in preparing a cantata for Christmas.

On Christmas morning at 10:30 there will be a church service. We want to see all the children and older people at this Christmas service.

On Christmas evening the children will have their good time. We suppose Santa Claus will be on hand with a treat. At this time the cantata, "Santa Claus and Mother Goose" will be rendered, when the following characters will appear:

Santa Claus,	Mother Goose,
Mother Goose Family,	
Jack,	Polly Flinders,
Jill,	Boy Blue,
Daffy-down-dilly,	Miss Muffett,
Humpty Dumpty,	Mother Hubbard,
Bo-Peep,	Mistress Mary,
The Jolly Miller,	Tom Tucker,
Jack Horner,	King Cole,
The Sky Sweeper,	Little Child,
Chorus of Children,	

This will be a happy family. At this evening's meeting the little folks and old folks will also bring their offerings for Jesus. The children and members of the church will be furnished with small envelopes, printed on them, "My gift to Jesus." Into these they will place any such gifts of money as they will feel able and willing to give to Jesus. Our dear Jesus has been very kind to us, to come into this world to save us, and He gives us so many gifts, that we dare not forget Him. These envelopes with their gifts for Jesus will be brought to the church on Christmas evening. Let the gifts be large. In your gift-giving and gift-receiving do not forget Jesus. Last year many of these envelopes contained silver dollars, and some half dollars. Let us have more this year.

Katie Vodermark has returned from a pleasant visit with friends in Ohio.

GRACE REFORMED CHURCH.

Our Church Parlors on East Washington St., between Barr and Lafayette streets.

SERVICES.

Sabbath morning,	10:30
Sabbath evening	7:30
Sunday School,	9:30
Teachers' meeting Sabbath evening	6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening	7:30

Come, and welcome to these services.

A. K. ZARTMAN, Pastor.

Residence 70 West Jefferson street.

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F. D. PAULUS,
D. W. SOUDER.

Deacons.

H. P. VORDERMARK,
G. W. SOLIDAY,
J. E. LONERGAN,

BRIEFS AND PERSONAL NOTES.

The pastor has Church Almanacs on hand.

Rev. M. C. Schaaf, of Huntington, assisted the pastor at the funeral service of Mr. Bolender, Monday p. m., December 2d.

The attendance at the Monday evening services at the Dutch Ridge Church has been so large of late that it has been impossible to seat all the people.

The men of Grace Church will, in all probability, give another New Year supper. They are working up their schemes. They will not be outdone by the ladies.

The cantata for Christmas evening promises to be quite a treat. No admittance will be charged, but every one is expected to bring a gift for Jesus, of gold or silver.

Renew your subscriptions for the *Christian World* while the agent is in our midst. We hope to see also many new names added to the list of subscribers from Grace Church.

S. K. Zartman, brother of the pastor, is in our midst looking after the interests of our Publishing House, at Dayton, Ohio. Now is your time to subscribe for the *Christian World*.

Father Dickerson has been quite ill for some weeks past. We miss him very much from our services. He is always in his place when at all able to be at the services. Go and visit him. It will do him good and you also.

The pastor's Sabbath evening lectures on Home and Matrimony, have been attended by full houses. The church parlors have been filled to their utmost capacity almost every evening. The aim of the pastor is to give some timely advice and to impart wholesome instruction upon these topics. The home and the marriage institution have both suffered at the hands of the godless and the reckless, and for the want of enlightenment. These lectures will be continued for some Sabbath evenings to come, and the pastor hopes to see good results from his work in this direction.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Zartman, of Glenford, Ohio, parents of the pastor, were guests with their son and family for more than a week during the month of November. They were making an extended tour among their friends in Indiana and Northern and Eastern Ohio. They expressed themselves as being highly gratified with their visit to Fort Wayne, and were glad to make so many pleasant acquaintances in our midst. Fifty-five years ago Mr. Zartman visited this place. In company with some other young men he was then making a trip through the "far west," returning home by way of Chicago, South Bend, Goshen, Ind., and Fort Wayne.

This place was then a very small town, having at that time no indications of the future which was before it. During the time of Father and Mother Zartman's stay in the city, together with the pastor's family, they spent a day at the Orphans' Home. This was a great privilege to them. They were glad to meet Father Retig and his lady, and find the children so happy and comfortable and having such a pleasant time.

After leaving Fort Wayne they visited Upper Sandusky, Tiffin, Green Springs, Fostoria, Cleveland, Akron, Canton and other places in northern and eastern Ohio. They enjoyed good health and we shall hope to see them at Fort Wayne again, in the near future.

WHERE TO BUY CHRISTMAS OUTFITS.

In laying in your stock of Christmas goods, buy from our advertisers. Get your books, cards, etc., from Renner, Cratsley & Co. and Siemon Bros., your Christmas footwear from Vordermark's; dress goods, cloaks, handkerchiefs, laces, etc., from Louis Wolf & Co., Root & Co. and the Boston Store. Buy perfumes, toilet cases, etc., from Frankenstein, Meyer Bros., Drier Bros. and Wagner, the druggists. Get your Christmas dinners at the Keystone Grocery, and H. W. Carles, and A. F. Gessler, the Main street butcher; cakes and fine bread, C. C. Gumper, the confectioner and baker. For photographs, go to Barrows. Gents' furnishing goods, remember William Meyer & Bro. Morgan & Beach are not to be forgotten, in hardware. The ladies wanting millinery goods, will find anything they want at Mergentheim's Bazaar. Furniture, lamps, &c., go to Foster's and Shuman's. M. F. Kaag will supply you with choice china-ware, &c. W. D. Henderson can supply your family nag with hay and oats. M. L. Albrecht has all styles of carriages on hand, to supply your taste. Go to F.

D. Paulus for reapers and mowers, to reap the winter harvest. If you should be ill on Christmas Day, Drs. Ross and Young will give you immediate relief, while Conrad Nierieter will insure your house and life. If you over-do the thing too much Peltier will take charge of the remains.

ANNUAL CHURCH ELECTION NEW-YEAR'S MORNING AT 10 O'CLOCK.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS.

ELDER.

E. G. Pierce. Valentine Munn.

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H. P. Vordermark. Chas. Troxal.
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F. D. Paulus. J. E. Lonergan.
TREASURER.

H. P. Vordermark. D. W. Souder.
Sunday school officers:

SUPERINTENDENT.

F. D. Paulus. D. W. Souder.
SECRETARY.

Philip Hyman. Harry Vordermark.
TREASURER.

Maggie Haverly. Katie Vordermark.
LIBRARIAN.

Williard Smith. Freddie Gumper.

SANTA CLAUS.

Christmas joys are coming again. Every boy and girl expects Santa Claus with his big pack of presents and goodies. He is coming with his reindeer from the far-off country, where no one has ever gone to visit him. It has been said he lives in a palace of ice, surrounded with icebergs and lots of snow. He never gets lonesome, for he is always preparing for his visit to this country. From one Christmas to another he is busy making dolls, sleds, books, drums and various articles, to please little children. They all look forward with happy hearts to the coming of Santa Claus. Many write letters to him and tell him what they want. It must take him almost a year to read the letters he receives, and then to fill all the orders. He not only visits homes, also Sunday Schools. The children of Grace Sunday School are anxiously looking forward to his visit. Not one of those who have been in regular attendance during the year, shall be forgotten. He always remembers good and faithful children, and brings them tokens of reward.

JOSIE.

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